

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 EB-07 SAI-01 SAM-01 NIC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6993

INFO USLO PEKING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2826

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAGR, CH, MX

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRC VICE PREMIER CH'EN YUNG-KUEI TO MEXICO

REF: MEXICO 2097; MEXICO 4807

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

SUMMARY: PRC/VICE PREMIER CH'EN YUNG-KUEI BEGAN A NINE-DAY VISIT TO MEXICO MARCH 27. ON MARCH 28, HE HELD PRIVATE TALKS WITH AND WAS THE GUEST OF HONOR AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA. THE FOLLOWING DAY, HE DEPARTED MEXICO CITY ON A TOUR OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTERS AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IN DIVERSE AREAS OF MEXICO. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT, CH'EN IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND SIX MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET FOR PRIVATE TALKS. EXTENSIVE PRESS REPORTS ON THE VISIT INDICATE THAT THE VISIT IS EXPECTED TO PAVE THE WAY FOR INCREASED EXCHANGES OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERIENCE BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS BUT DO NOT MENTION WHETHER ANY CONCRETE AGREEMENTS ARE CONTEMPLATED. END SUMMARY.

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1. ON ARRIVAL AT MEXICO CITY'S AIRPORT MARCH 27, VICE

PREMIER CH'EN WAS RECEIVED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY EMILIO RABASA, SEC OF AGRICULTURE OSCAR BRAUER HERRERA, SEC OF AGRICULTURAL REFORM AUGUSTO GOMEZ VILLANUEVA, AND SEC OF HYDRAULIC RESOURCES LEANDRO ROVIROSA WADE. IN ADDITION, CH'EN IS SCHEDULED TO HAVE PRIVATE MEETING WITH EACH OF THESE MEXICAN OFFICIALS AND WITH SEC OF GOVERNMENT MARIO MOYA PALENCIA AND SEC OF NATIONAL PROPERTIES FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO.

2. CH'EN REPORTEDLY HEADS A PARTY OF TWENTY-ONE INCLUDING HSIAO P'ENG, VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE; LIN P'ING, DIRECTOR FOR THE OCEANIC AND AMERICAN REGIONS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY; CHEN TSUNG-LI, SUBDIRECTOR IN MIN OF AGRICULTURE; TSAO YUI-FENG, SUBDIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE MIN OF HYDRAULICS AND ELECTRICAL ENERGY; CHIU WEI-FUO, CHIEF OF HYDRAULIC WORKS SECTION OF THE SAME INSTITUTE; AND WENG PEI-CHUN, CHIEF OF THE AQUATIC PRODUCTS DIVISION OF THE MIN OF AGRICULTURE. (SINCE NAMES AND TITLES ARE TAKEN FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS, THEY ARE PROBABLY GARBLED IN SOME CASES.) ADDITIONALLY, THE PARTY INCLUDES INTERPRETERS AND REPORTERS.

3. ON MARCH 28, CH'EN MET WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR. ALSO PRESENT WERE FONSEC RABASA, MEXICO'S AMB TO THE PRC, EUGENIO ANGUIANO ROCH, AND THE PRC AMB TO MEXICO YAO KUANG. PRESS ACCOUNTS MERELY INDICATE THAT CH'EN DELIVERED MESSAGES AND GIFTS FROM MAE TSE-TUNG AND CHOU EN-LAI, INCLUDING AN OFFER OF A PAIR OF PANDAS, AND THAT HE AND THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT DISCUSSED SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE.

4. FOLLOWING THIS MEETING, PRESIDENT AND MRS ECHEVERRIA GAVE A LUNCHEON FOR CH'EN, THE MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION, PRC DIPLOMATS IN MEXICO AND 24 CHINESE STUDENTS CURRENTLY STUDYING SPANISH AT THE COLEGIO DE MEXICO (SEE REF B). IN A SPEECH AT THE END OF THE LUNCHEON, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, NOTING THAT MANY MEXICAN TECHNICAL GROUPS HAVE TRAVELED IN AND MADE EXTENSIVE STUDIES OF CHINA, SAID THAT THE PRC HAS MUCH TO TEACH THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD. HE ADDED THAT

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CHINA'S ORGANIZATION AND TEAM WORK, WHICH ARE THE SOURCE OF ITS PROGRESS, ARE CONTRIBUTING TO A NEW WORLD CIVILIZATION. CH'EN RESPONDED BY PRAISING PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES AS A BLOW AGAINST "IMPERIALIST EXPLOITATION AND PLUNDERING" AND PLEDGED THE RESOLUTE SUPPORT OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

5. ACCOMPANIED BY SECS GOMEZ VILLANUEVA, BRAUER AND ROVIROSA WADE, CH'EN AND HIS PARTY VISITED TWO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTERS IN NORTHERN MEXICO ON MARCH 29 AND 30. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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6. COMMENT: PRESIDENT AND PARTICULARLY MRS ECHEVERRIA HAVE FREQUENTLY EXHIBITED A PERSONAL AFFINITY FOR THE PRC AND THE CHINESE PEOPLE. IN ADDITION TO VISITING THE PRC THEMSELVES, THEY HAVE SENT SEVERAL OF THEIR CHILDREN ON VISITS TO THAT COUNTRY. MORE IMPORTANT, BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY HAVE OFTEN COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE PRC AND ITS ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND PROGRESS. THEY CONTINUE TO TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE 25 CHINESE EXCHANGE STUDENTS STUDYING SPANISH IN MEXICO (SEE REF B). WITHIN THE PAST MONTH, THE ECHEVERRIAS HAVE INVITED THE STUDENTS TO DINE AT THE PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE TWICE - ON MARCH 5 TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE GROUP WAS ENJOYING MEXICO AND SATISFIED WITH ITS SPANISH COURSES AND ON MARCH 28 WHEN VICE PREMIER CH'EN WAS GUEST OF HONOR.

7. IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF THE CHINESE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S LAST TWO YEARS IN OFFICE TO INCREASE BILATERAL COOPERATIVE AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

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